

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

**Nanomanufacturing - Key control characteristics -
Part 12-3: 2D material-related products - Schottky barrier heights of 2D material-
based field-effect transistors: temperature-dependent current-voltage
measurements**

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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The text of this Technical Specification is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
113/967/DTS	113/976/RVDTS

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Specification is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

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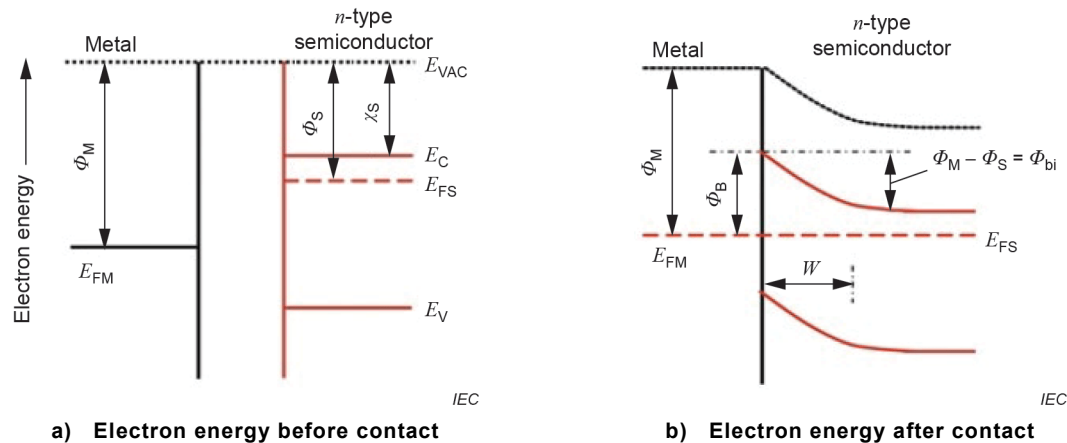
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INTRODUCTION

Atomically thin two-dimensional (2D) materials are expected to be used for future electrical sub-systems or electronic device applications.

The Schottky barrier refers to a potential energy barrier that forms at the interface between a metal and a semiconductor or other material. See Figure 1.

**Key**

ϕ_M	work function of a metal
ϕ_S	work function of a semiconductor
ϕ_B	Schottky barrier height formed at the metal-semiconductor junction
W	depletion width in a semiconductor
ϕ_{bi}	built-in potential induced in the depletion region of a semiconductor
E_{VAC}	energy level of vacuum
E_{FM} and E_{FS}	Fermi energy levels of a metal and a semiconductor, respectively
E_C and E_V	energy levels of conduction band minimum and valence band maximum, respectively
χ_S	electron affinity of a semiconductor

Figure 1 – Energy band diagram of a metal–semiconductor junction

In electronic devices, this barrier can influence the flow of current across the interface, as it can prevent or allow the movement of electrons depending on the direction of the voltage applied. The Schottky barrier height (SBH) is expressed in unit of Joule (J) or electron volt (eV); however, electron volt is more widely used in the electronic device community.

Specifically, when a metal is placed in contact with a semiconductor, the difference in work function between the two materials can lead to the formation of depletion of free carriers near the interface. The depletion region as shown in Figure 1 is dependent on SBH and doping concentration, and it affects the flow of electrons.

The magnitude of the SBH depends on a number of factors, including the choice of materials, the doping concentration of the semiconductor, and the voltages applied to the device. In some cases, the Schottky barrier can be deliberately engineered to control the flow of current in electronic devices, such as in Schottky diodes, which are commonly used in a range of electronic applications, including power supplies, radio frequency (RF) circuits, and digital logic circuits. Examples of Schottky devices include Schottky diodes, Schottky transistors, and Schottky barrier photodiodes.

As for conventional semiconductor devices, several methods have been used to determine SBH, e.g. temperature-dependent current–voltage (I – V) measurement, capacitance–voltage (C – V) measurement, and photocurrent measurement. [1]¹

However, it is difficult to measure SBH of 2D materials by using C – V methods because their ultra-thinness and van der Waals (vdW) gap formed at the metal–2D semiconductor interfaces give rise to unreliable results arising from various parasitic capacitance components. It is also difficult to measure SBH of 2D materials by using photocurrent which is dependent on internal photo-emission because their ultra-thinness gives rise to weak optoelectronic intensity and vdW gap formed at the metal-semiconductor interfaces gives rise to noisy photocurrent signal.

Therefore, the current–voltage (I – V) measurement as the fundamental electrical characterization technique has been predominantly utilized to measure SBH in 2D materials-based electronic devices. Especially, I – V transfer curves obtained from 2D material-based field-effect transistors (FETs) at various temperatures have been used to extract SBH, as shown in Figure 2. That is, SBH can be determined by measuring only current arising from thermionic emission at elevated temperatures at the flat-band condition without current arising from field emission which is commonly described as tunnelling.

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¹ Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.